

a mother of many Greek gods. The ancient Romans dedicated the March holiday Matronalia to Juno, mother of the gods, and gave gifts to mothers on that day.

In the United States, the origins of Mothers Day are rooted deep in the West Virginia hills. Anna Jarvis, the daughter of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis, was born in Webster, WV, on May 1, 1864. Her family moved to Grafton during her childhood. On May 12, 1907, 2 years after her mother's death, Anna Jarvis held a memorial service to honor her mother's memory. From that small event began Anna Jarvis' eventually successful campaign to institute "Mothers Day" as a recognized U.S. holiday.

Today, the International Mother's Day Shrine, located in Grafton, continues to commemorate Anna Jarvis' accomplishment. Yet there are mothers who will not receive cards or flowers, or enjoy a Mothers Day brunch with their husbands and children. In Montcoal, WV, there are 29 families who are grieving the loss of sons, husbands, brothers, and friends. The Nation grieves with them, but that is little comfort for those mothers who will wake on the second Sunday in May to quiet houses and silent phones. Mothers Day holds little comfort for the wives and mothers who must now get on with raising children and paying bills alone following this tragic event.

Mothers Day is a lonely day as well for the "Gold Star" mothers, wives and families of soldiers lost to battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. First used in World War I, service flags—a blue star on a white background, surrounded by a red border—are hung to signify that the family has a loved one overseas in harm's way. Should the awful news arrive that their loved one had lost his or her life, a gold star replaces the blue star, signaling the supreme sacrifice that has been made.

Miners' mothers and soldiers' mothers, as well as the mothers of anyone facing dangerous working conditions on a daily basis, know well the constant stress and tension of having a dearly loved child in harm's way. Every day is a long, silent, chanting prayer: "Please, God, keep my child safe and bring him home to me."

Tragedy reminds us just how much mothers care, and how much their children mean to them. This Mothers Day, we once again have an opportunity to thank our mothers for that loving care, and to thank all mothers for the great generosity of spirit that marks a caring mother.

#### TIMES SQUARE BOMBING ATTEMPT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last weekend's close call is a wake-up call. The attempt to bomb New York City's Times Square should remind us both of the vigilance we must maintain to keep Americans safe, and the triviality of political fingerpointing.

I first want to once again thank the men and women who helped avert disaster—and saved untold lives—in one of America's most iconic and crowded spaces. The system in place appears to be working as designed: improved aviation security measures helped authorities apprehend the subject as he attempted to flee, and the suspect is now reportedly providing valuable information that could help disrupt and prevent future attacks. I am confident he and anyone else who contributed to this atrocious act will be held to account.

But I have been disappointed that some have tried to politicize this attempted attack on our homeland. Let's use this opportunity to pursue justice and make sure our law enforcement, military, and intelligence services have every tool they need to do their jobs. Let's also be sure we examine what worked and didn't so we can improve the system. But let's not mistake it as an opportunity to score political points or make baseless accusations that do nothing to ensure our citizens' safety.

A thwarted terrorist attack in the heart of our Nation's most populous city reminds us that we have enough real enemies—we need not be our own.

Let's also put this latest incident in context: It follows a successful series of steps the administration has taken to protect us here at home.

We have disrupted numerous terrorism plots and prosecuted dozens of terrorist suspects, including the ring-leader of a plan to bomb New York City's subway system last year. Attorney General Holder called that plot "one of the most serious terrorist threats to our nation since September 11th, 2001." That attack never happened; we cannot know how many lives were saved, and our country is safer because of this administration's swift and smart leadership.

Our Nation is also prosecuting David Headley, who is accused of plotting with the Pakistani terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba to launch the devastating terrorist attacks in Mumbai in 2008, as well as to carry out other plots in South Asia and Europe. Attorney General Holder has credited the criminal justice system for achieving both a guilty plea and valuable intelligence about terrorist activities from Headley.

And earlier this year, the FBI disrupted an international network of extremists operating through the Internet to plot attacks, raise funding for terrorism and recruit new terrorists. Two Americans—Colleen LaRose and Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, also known as Jihad Jane and Jihad Jamie—were arrested along with six foreign co-conspirators. The two Americans will soon be tried in Federal court.

That's not all. We have also enhanced intelligence sharing, strengthened aviation security and boosted human-intelligence collection capabilities. We have fully implemented the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. And we

have significantly increased funding for the FBI, the Defense Department, the Department of Homeland Security and the intelligence community.

At the same time, we're keeping Americans safer at home by taking the fight to terrorists abroad. In recent months we have helped kill or capture the most wanted terrorist leaders across Iraq, southeast Asia, Africa and the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. We have disrupted al-Qaida's operations, finances and safe havens, and killed or captured more than half of its top 20 leaders. It is widely agreed that al-Qaida is the weakest it has been since 9/11.

We have also begun to reverse the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan, in part by tripling the number of U.S. troops there. And we have strengthened our partnership with Pakistan, empowering it to mount major offensives against terrorists within its borders.

I am praising the administration's vigilance not because the President is a Democrat. I am praising it because it is, by any objective measure, successful. America is as prepared as ever to defend against any threat, domestic or foreign.

If, as this past weekend showed us, private citizens, street vendors, law enforcement and intelligence officials can work together in everyone's best interest, I would expect U.S. Senators to be able to do the same.

#### COMMENDING CONGRESSMAN DAVID OBEY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, we recently learned that DAVID OBEY, one of the longest serving Members of the other body, a friend, and a fellow member of the Wisconsin delegation, has decided to retire. To come here and try to sum up his record and accomplishments isn't easy to do; Congressman OBEY has achieved so much for Wisconsin, and for this Nation. He has been the dean of the Wisconsin delegation, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and a national leader on many issues affecting hard-working families.

Congressman OBEY understood the concerns of the people of the 7th District of Wisconsin, and he has been their champion for more than 40 years. He and I are both so fortunate to represent this beautiful swath of Wisconsin's north woods, including the magnificent Apostle Islands. In fact, Congressman OBEY and I worked together to protect the Apostles, designating almost 80 percent of the Apostles as federally protected wilderness.

That was just one of many ways that Congressman OBEY and I worked together. Recently, we were also proud to come together to honor our friend, the late Gaylord Nelson, on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. And through the years, I have had the chance to work with Congressman OBEY in areas where he has shown tremendous leadership,